

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-10 canceled).

11 (new). Support frame for relieving the vertebral column in the trunk area between the hips and the thoracic vertebrae, comprising a hip clasp (1) supported on the hips of the patient and a thoracic vertebrae clasp (2) supported on the area of the thoracic vertebrae, which are connected with one another by means of support rods (3) extending parallel to the vertebral column, and the distance between the hip clamp (1) and the thoracic vertebrae clasp (2) is adjustable in that the support rods (3) that run parallel to the vertebral column are adjustable in length, wherein interchangeable reinforcement rods (5) having a different thickness, a different stiffness, and/or a different length can be additionally inserted between the hip clasp (1) and the thoracic vertebrae clasp (2).

12 (new). Support frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein the interchangeable reinforcement rods (5) consist of plastic and/or

steel.

13 (new). Support frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein accommodation pockets (6) are provided on the hip clasp (1), on the one hand, and on the thoracic vertebrae clasp (2), on the other hand, into which the interchangeable reinforcement rods (5) can be inserted.

14 (new). Support frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein the length-adjustable support rods (3) of the support frame are subdivided, in each instance, whereby the support rod sections (3a, 3b) overlap, seen in the longitudinal direction of the vertebral column, and can be adjustably fixed to one another in the area of overlapping.

15 (new). Support frame as claimed in claim 14, wherein the support rod sections (3a, 3b) are connected in one piece with the hip clasp (1) and the thoracic vertebrae clasp, (2) respectively, and provided with means of attachment in the area of overlapping, with which they can be fixed to one another.

16 (new). Support frame as claimed in claim 15, wherein the support rod sections (3a, 3b) can be fixed to one another by means of hook and loop closures (4), in the area of overlapping.

17 (new). Support frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein the support rod sections (3a, 3b) are guided on one another in telescoping manner, and can be fixed to one another at different extension lengths.

18 (new). Support frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein the thoracic vertebrae clasp (2) is additionally provided with an extension (3c, 9) that reaches all the way under the shoulder blades of the patient, which is also held by the support rods (3), which in this case are configured to be correspondingly longer.